IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 1 2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND 3 4 C.A. NO. 00-105L 5 EFRAT UNGAR, et al 6 SEPTEMBER 21, 2010 VS. 7 2:03 P.M. THE PALESTINIAN 8 LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, PROVIDENCE, RI et al 9 10 11 BEFORE THE HONORABLE RONALD R. LAGUEUX 12 SENIOR JUDGE 13 (Motion to Intervene) 14 15 16 17 **APPEARANCES:** 18 19 FOR THE PLAINTIFFS: DAVID J. STRACHMAN, ESQ. McIntyre Tate & Lynch LLP 321 South Main Street 20 Suite 400 21 Providence, RI 02903 22 MAX WISTOW, ESQ. Wistow & Barylick Incorporated 23 61 Weybosset Street Providence, RI 02903 24 25

21 SEPTEMBER 2010 -- 2:03 P.M.

THE COURT: Good afternoon, everyone.

The matter before the Court is the Estate of Unger v. The Palestinian Authority and others. It's Civil Action 00-105L. The specific matter before the Court is a motion to intervene filed by the Palestinian Pension Fund for the State Administrative Employees in the Gaza Strip.

Will the attorneys interested in this matter please identify themselves for the record.

MR. STRACHMAN: David Strachman for the Unger Plaintiffs, Your Honor.

MR. WISTOW: Max Wistow for the Plaintiffs.

MR. CAVANAGH: Joseph Cavanagh for the moving party.

MR. KERR: Charles Kerr for the moving party.

MR. SHERMAN: Deming Sherman for the PA and PLO.

THE COURT: All right. I'll hear first from the moving party. Who will argue?

MR. CAVANAGH: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Nice to see you.

Mr. Kerr, who has much more familiarity than I do with this, may also add some argument, but I will try to handle your questions and present this in a fashion that is clear.

First of all, Your Honor, this motion is not one where we seek in any way to get involved with the merits or these parties. We have no relationship to the Defendants, we have obviously no relationship to the Plaintiffs, and our motion is simply a motion to intervene for the limited purpose of bringing to your attention the problem with the injunction and what it has done to our interests and ask you to either vacate or modify that injunction or to ask that the other --we would ask that the other side have a bond with respect to the injunction, and I'll explain the reasons why.

I wasn't present, obviously, at the hearing where you granted the injunction in May of '05, but it seems apparent that what was needed at that time, the Plaintiffs represented to you, that they needed an opportunity to maintain the status quo so that they could go to the jurisdictions where they believed assets existed where they could enforce their judgment. And so they asked you for an injunction for that purpose, and you granted that.

THE COURT: I granted it against the PA and the PLO over whom I had personal jurisdiction. That's why I issued the injunction.

MR. CAVANAGH: Right.

THE COURT: And it had to be enforced somewhere else because there were no funds here in Rhode Island or other assets.

MR. CAVANAGH: Right. And what they represented to you was that they didn't -- the Plaintiffs said that there were no assets in Rhode Island but they believed that there were assets in other jurisdictions, and they wanted to go to those states and use the process of those states to restrain assets in those states, and they needed an injunction to give them the chance to do that.

THE COURT: I was enjoining those two entities from alienating their funds.

MR. CAVANAGH: Right. And the basis for their argument was to allow us to -- if you recall, there was a mandate issue at that time as well. The mandate hadn't issued from the First Circuit.

And they brought two matters to your attention, that what do we do about the mandate because we want to move on this as a judgment. And, secondly, we think that the Defendants are moving assets right now, and we'd like an injunction so that we can go to those states and try to have that advocated.

Now, that was five years ago. And as a result of the injunction and what they did in New York, our

funds, which are completely separate from the PA, have been frozen for five years.

And the collection proceedings that the Plaintiffs said they wanted to go about in New York they haven't pursued, to the point where they brought three separate actions in New York.

The first was they attempted to get a restraining order under New York process. We entered into that case and took the position that the assets they were seeking to restrain were owned by us and not by the Defendants.

THE COURT: And that's a matter that's still pending before the New York Court.

MR. CAVANAGH: That particular matter, the Court -- before the hearing took place, the Plaintiffs withdrew their claim under that particular procedure.

And the issue that was teed up at that time was, Who owned the assets, and were they entitled to get a restraining order under these circumstances?

When that issue was ready to be heard, when we raised that issue in 2006, they withdrew and instead filed a second proceeding called a turnover proceeding and at the same time filed motions for declaratory judgment.

And the relief they asked for in the declaratory

judgment was a declaration by the New York Court that these assets were owned or controlled by the PA. The second declaration was that they were not owned or controlled by my client. That was the declaration.

The turnover action was dismissed without prejudice by the New York Court, the New York Judge making the comment that there was no evidence before her that would indicate that the PA owned these assets, but the declaratory -- because no discovery had been done in the turnover proceeding, she denied it without prejudice, and then the declaratory judgment action proceeded.

In the declaratory judgment action, which is still pending, the Plaintiffs have taken the position recently that, that declaration that the PA did not own or control is not an issue that needs to be decided by the Court, that the only issue that they need decided is that my client doesn't own the assets, which really doesn't go to the issue of -- the key issue in the case, do these Defendants control or own the assets?

So, after five years, when they were before you five years ago, you gave them an opportunity to go to the various jurisdictions and try to collect those judgments. They haven't done that yet, but for five years, my client's assets have been held up because

that issue hasn't been addressed.

THE COURT: Well, that's up to the New York

Court to deal with that matter, not this Court.

MR. CAVANAGH: Well, here's what I'm suggesting, Your Honor, that we have an interest in this matter, and it's your -- this injunction that's holding it up in New York because there's no restraint in place in New York.

They have not been able to get one in New York. They've withdrawn once, dismissed without prejudice, and now, when it appears as though that issue might be decided in the declaratory judgment action, they are moving away from that issue.

And so our position is this: With no due -- with no lack of respect for the Court, your injunction, which is open-ended --

THE COURT: It's a permanent injunction. It was made permanent.

MR. CAVANAGH: Right, until further order of the Court.

THE COURT: That's right.

MR. CAVANAGH: Right. And in the transcript, if you remember, you had said that you could not -- you were not clairvoyant, you couldn't see what was going to happen down the line and the parties and people

could come back and bring appropriate motions or petitions with respect to that matter, if appropriate under the circumstances.

And that was because actually at that hearing, a couple of the banks and in fact one of the investment managers for this very Fund, represented by counsel and had already been notified by the Plaintiffs and had been subpoenaed for records, they appeared and said they were unclear on what was happening. And you had made the observation that, if these things don't work out, then someone could come back.

So what we're doing with the intervention is, number one, we think we have a right to intervene and to bring this to your attention because I think what's important is, you say it's up to the New York Court, but your injunction was to give them the chance to get relief from the New York Courts, not to give them an opportunity not to do that and to just hold the injunction over our heads and freeze our assets, and that's what's happened in this circumstance.

So what we were asking is --

THE COURT: You have your remedies in the New York Court.

MR. CAVANAGH: What I'm suggesting, Your Honor, is that an appropriate remedy would be to limit the

amount of time that they have to get that relief or to put a bond in place in the event that we're harmed by the result of an injunction that should not have been granted under the circumstances.

And let's just assume that I'm right that we have the rights to these, the Defendants don't have the rights to these. For five years, our assets have been prevented from being managed and handled and reinvested in a way that would be deemed appropriate by experts because they've been frozen.

And what we're saying is, when you -- for example, if -- you entered an order that originally they asked for 60 days, and that made a lot of sense because that would give them two months to go to New York or some place else and invoke the process of the New York Court to try to restrain the assets because that's where the assets are and let them seek relief there.

What they're doing is they're getting relief from a Federal injunction here that's preventing us from -- it's not because of New York Courts; it's because of the Federal injunction in Rhode Island that's preventing us. And what we --

THE COURT: Not at all because it only runs against the PA and the PLO, and you can bring the issue

before the New York Court that you are not under the aegis of the PA and you're a separate entity, and that issue should be decided in New York, not here.

MR. CAVANAGH: We've tried to bring it before them, and the --

THE COURT: Well, I can't speak for the New York Court, but I'm not going to take an end around here.

MR. CAVANAGH: Well, I --

THE COURT: And you asked to stay those proceedings in New York pending the outcome of what the only issue is that remains is whether or not I should grant a new trial.

MR. CAVANAGH: Right, and that --

THE COURT: That's the only issue that remains in this case, and you're not involved in that issue.

MR. CAVANAGH: Right, but we are being harmed by the injunction every day, as we have been for five years. And what we're saying is, we think we could --we would like to intervene and at least make the argument to you that your injunction should be at least modified, at least modified so that we get protection because, at the end of the day, if the injunction, with no one there to protest or bring it up five years ago, the injunction, if someone's going to be under the restrictions of an injunction, then someone who obtains

that injunction under the rules, under 65, should put up a bond, no question about it.

And if we're right, just hypothetically, if I'm right, my client owns the assets and the PA doesn't and this injunction has kept us, not the New York injunction because they've never obtained relief in New York, as they told you -- that's why they told you they needed the injunction, so they could go to New York and do that five years ago.

And we've been harmed for five years. And what we're saying is, we're coming back and saying, well, let's put a bond in place to protect us going forward if this is going to persist, and that we think is a right under the rights of intervention we have a right to bring to your attention under these circumstances.

So that, in essence, is what we're arguing.

They've raised some procedural issues that we didn't plead this correctly. It's clear as a bell what we're trying to do in our papers.

And as far as timeliness goes, we know what you did with the Monetary Authority when they brought a separate action up here against these Plaintiffs. You said, That should be decided in New York.

You essentially said that with your injunction five years ago, but you didn't ever expect and neither

should we be burdened by the fact that it's to their advantage to not have that issue decided in New York, and the latest statement of their claims in New York is they are making movements away from that declaration that you said is the essence of the issue.

So what -- all we're asking for is relief from the harshness of that injunction so that it puts some duration on it and gives us a bond. That's what we're -- we're not asking that it be completely vacated. We would want some harshness and a bond under the circumstances because, otherwise, it's an injunction. It really is a hardship on a third party that has nothing to do with this, and it's five years they have not clarified that issue in New York, and it --

THE COURT: Well, why haven't you clarified it? Why haven't you taken some action to make --

MR. CAVANAGH: We have.

THE COURT: -- make a claim that you're not -you're a separate entity and you're not under the aegis
of the PA?

MR. CAVANAGH: We took that position in --

THE COURT: Well, then that's up to the Supreme Court in New York to decide that issue.

MR. CAVANAGH: But what we're saying is that's

1 true, let the New York case -- Court decide it, but 2 your injunction shouldn't stay in place during all --3 it's up to New York. They got the benefit of your 4 injunction. They can go to New York and get the 5 benefit of New York law with respect to collection of 6 judgments, and that's what they --7 My injunction is very, very clear. THE COURT: 8 It only applies to the PA and the PLO. I've already 9 ruled that. 10 MR. CAVANAGH: Right, I understand that you 11 have. 12 THE COURT: So what am I to do, take on another 13 action here? I'd have to have another trial of some 14 sort. 15 MR. CAVANAGH: No, I don't think so. I think --16 THE COURT: Won't I have to decide whether or 17 not you're a separate entity? 18 MR. CAVANAGH: No. All you'd have to decide is 19 whether your injunction is appropriate under these 20 circumstances. 21 THE COURT: It is appropriate against the PA and 22 the PLO. 23 MR. CAVANAGH: But not against us, and that's --24 and we would say, therefore, you put a time limit on

that so that they can get that clarified and put a bond

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requirement. That's not a trial. There's no discovery.

THE COURT: You want me to decide, first of all, that you are a separate entity and not under the aegis of the PA. I'd have to decide that first.

MR. CAVANAGH: I don't think so. I think -THE COURT: I'd have to.

MR. CAVANAGH: -- we'd make -- all we do is we make a claim to the Fund, and what you'd say is a bond in place, in the event that we're right, in the event that we're right and it's decided in New York that ultimately the PA does not own and control it, then there's a bond in place that protects us for the loss and the harm that we have going forward while your injunction prevents the custodians in New York from doing anything because they're all afraid that they're violating a Federal injunction.

THE COURT: That's because they're afraid. They're afraid.

MR. CAVANAGH: I know.

THE COURT: They're not litigating it. They're just sitting there, and they accepted a lawyer's word that it covered them, and that'll be decided by a New York Court, not this Court. I'm not going to start another trial in this case.

MR. CAVANAGH: Look, I know when these papers came in, and I know the situation, that you would say I'm not going to get involved in another -- respectfully, what I'm asking is, do we have a right to intervene? We think we do.

And what issue are we going to place before you? The appropriateness of that injunction staying in place under the Federal law, and that would be, should a bond be put in place in case we're right? You don't have have to have a hearing on that. The bond would be -- it wouldn't -- it doesn't mean anything if we're wrong. But if we're right, we get protected, and that should have taken place five years ago, with all due respect, for anybody --

THE COURT: You're on the horns of a dilemma.

You haven't even shown me that you have standing to bring this, that you're a separate entity and you have standing to bring this motion.

MR. CAVANAGH: I think we -- under the Rule, we've shown --

THE COURT: You're on the horns of a dilemma.

MR. CAVANAGH: We have a claim. We have a claim that we think is an interest recognized under the invention law -- rule, and our claim is that we're the owner, sole owner, of the Pension Fund assets that are

being adversely affected by an injunction of this Court, and we're asking to intervene for the limited purpose of asking you for relief from that injunction in an appropriate way, and that's a legal issue.

That's not a trial. It's very much like if --

THE COURT: It's loaded with factual issues.

MR. CAVANAGH: It would be based on the assumption that we're right. And if there's a bond in place to protect us, if we're wrong, it doesn't mean anything. If we're right, we're protected, that's what it means, under those circumstances.

It doesn't mean anything else. And it's appropriate, it's required under the rule, and that's our position. As a party -- as a would-be party having an interest in the injunction because of the effect it's having on us, we think that gives us the right to intervene. And we're not going to get into a big debate about who the owner is, et cetera. We're saying, if we're the owner, we're going to be --

THE COURT: I'm not deciding hypothetical cases, and I'm not going to bring this case into the major case because it doesn't have anything to do with the only issue that's left in this case.

MR. CAVANAGH: I think the New York Court should decide that. They should decide that issue. But your

injunction --

THE COURT: They should.

MR. CAVANAGH: -- is harming us in the meantime, and we want the opportunity and we think we have the right to intervene to bring to your attention the need for that injunction to be modified and for a bond to be put in place.

THE COURT: You have your remedies in New York.

MR. CAVANAGH: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Strachman?

MR. STRACHMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

Your Honor, my brother indicates that there is significant harm that is occurring and that the funds are not being managed, and I would direct the Court's attention to Exhibit I to our filing, which is Docket No. 402, which is a stipulation and an order signed by Mr. Kerr and myself and brought to Your Honor and signed by Your Honor on September 11, 2007, specifically allowing the management of these funds because, when an issue was raised in New York years and years ago and there was a question as to how these funds should be managed while the litigation was pending, we cooperatively said effectively, do whatever you want with the money, invest it any way you want, just keep investing it, keep managing it, it has

nothing to do with us.

So for my brother to come into Court today and say that nothing's happened in the last five years and that this restraining order from May of 2005 is the cause of any of these problems is just inaccurate, and I think it's respectfully just ill-informed.

We brought this stipulation and order to the Court's attention, and I direct Your Honor to the very --

THE COURT: I remember it.

MR. STRACHMAN: Okay. There are -- the issue with respect to proving the ownership of these funds has been litigated on numerous occasions by the New York Courts, and in fact, there's a District Court ruling by Judge Konreich, which we attached to our brief, which said very clearly, if I could just read a sentence or two, Your Honor, it's Exhibit A to our brief, Page 8, which is her ruling denying them summary judgment because they could not prove the ownership of these funds.

And she said, The Insurance and Pension Fund, quote -- excuse me. Insurance and Pension Fund couldn't explain, quote, The use of different names for what they now say is the same pension fund, close quote.

Further down the page, she said, Even if the Court were to find that the Gaza Fund is a d/b/a name for the Insurance and Pension Fund and that the latter is an entity separate from the PA, the evidence does not clarify to what extent the PA or the Insurance and Pension Fund control the Gaza Fund, the sources of funds, all of which are material issues, close quote.

She denied summary judgment because they can't --

THE COURT: Issues of fact.

MR. STRACHMAN: That's right. And she scheduled a trial. The trial and the proceedings were stayed in 2008 at their request. There were subsequent appeals. The case has been back and forth to the Appellate Court I think three or four times. They have now asked the highest Court of New York to revisit the jury issue decision.

It's my understanding that virtually nothing has happened in the case over the course of the better part of 2010 because, when the First Circuit ruled, it's my understanding that the restraining -- excuse me -- the stay remained in full force and effect.

And the Court of Appeals ruled in March of this year very clearly that the same -- they have the exact same kinds of problems, and if I could quote, The

Plaintiffs are right, we are right, that the Defendants' attempts to prejudge the very issue at the heart of this issue -- excuse me -- at the heart of this action; that is, whether the IPF and the Gaza Funds are legitimately interchangeable names.

That's all teed up, that's locked and loaded, years of discovery, years of pretrial supervision by one Judge, Judge Konreich, appellate decisions, and now what they're attempting to do, impermissibly and in violation of the scope of intervention, is exactly what Your Honor suggested, which is have another trial over here and have another parallel proceeding multiplying the litigation.

It would be offensive in the first instance.

It's doubly offensive to ask this Court to rewrite or redo five years of litigation. It's already before the New York Court, and several -- and ready for determination according to its rules and regulations.

The determination of the Court in New York will determine very clearly in a declaratory judgment action whether the Insurance and Pension Fund actually owns these funds, despite the fact of course, Judge, that in Exhibit A to our brief, it says very clearly, The account that this -- this account as titled says, The Pension -- the Palestinian Pension Fund for the State

Administrative Employees of Gaza, represented by P for Palestinian and National and A. Authority.

So they can't prove they own this money. It is ready to be determined there, and to come to Court without a separate pleading when the -- there have been numerous rulings of the First Circuit indicating that, as an Intervenor, you must comply with the rules, you must file an appropriate separate pleading. That's the public citizen decision, Your Honor, that we quote on our -- in our brief on Page 9.

The Court said the language there is mandatory, it's not permissive, and warned, specifically warned the parties and future litigants, at Page 784, not to use this decision and the specific facts of the public citizen decision to come in and to do exactly what the Insurance and Pension Fund has done here.

They also cutely tried to suggest that they want assistance from this Court, they want affirmative relief against the Ungar orphans and their family, but they say very clearly, both in their original pleading and in the pleading number 535 that they filed yesterday, on Page 6, that they are not consenting to the jurisdiction of this Court.

They don't want this Court to have jurisdiction over them, but they want to use this Court as a sword

against the Ungars to effectively attempt to undo and to redo, rather, what they've been unable to to successfully convince a series of judges and courts in New York.

And lastly, Your Honor, if this Court were to grant this motion and instead of the next four months litigating and doing discovery on the motion to vacate, we would be here on this parallel proceeding because all of the issues that were represented to this Court as facts were represented not by employees of the Insurance and Pension Fund, not by an affidavit of a staffer of the Insurance and Pension Fund, but, rather, by counsel, and the discovery would be required here to ferret out those issues.

We already started some of that discovery in the Eastern District of New York to try to ferret out some of those issues.

I believe that's all, Your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: The injunction I issued is perfectly clear. It was to prevent the PA and the PLO from alienating funds. And it only applies to the PA and the PLO, despite the fact that the Movant here attempting to intervene hasn't filed a complaint and is setting forth the issues that they're trying to raise.

It's clear what the issue is. The issue is

whether the Pension Fund is under the aegis of the PA and subject to the injunction. That's an issue that should be decided in the Courts in New York, and attempts have been made to move forward in the Courts of New York.

If I take the case, if I allow the intervention, there could be inconsistent results, and it's not my place to make that determination. And, obviously, the Supreme Court Judge in New York who heard this matter didn't grant summary judgment because there were factual issues to decide, and that's what should happen now is any discovery that's necessary be taken in New York and the matter tried to make a determination of this issue.

It's a key issue, and it's not one that I'm going to interject in this case. I have enough to decide in this case right now, which is whether or not the motion to vacate the previously entered judgment should be granted or denied.

I've already denied it once, and the Court of Appeals have reversed me and asked me to consider other factors other than the obvious action of Arafat not to recognize the jurisdiction of this Court.

So, if I grant the motion to intervene, I will have to have a factual hearing to determine the facts,

which is whether or not the Pension Fund is a separate entity and unconnected with the PA, and there will have to be a lot of discovery. I'll be duplicating things that have already happened in New York, and that's a waste of time, a waste of judicial time. I have enough to deal with in this case right now.

So, for all those reasons, the motion of the Pension Fund to intervene in this case is denied. I will enter a written order to that effect.

We'll take a recess.

(Court was concluded at 2:36 p.m.)

## CERTIFICATION

I, Debra D. Lajoie, RPR-FCRR-CRI-RMR, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages are a true and accurate transcription of my stenographic notes in the above-entitled case.

/s/ Debra D. Lajoie

9/28/10